UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,374	07/17/2003	Hajime Shimizu	1907-0211P	9713

			EXAMINER
2292	7590	11/26/2003	NGUYEN, KIMBERLY D

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2876	

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO 90C (Rev 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/620,374	SHIMIZU, HAJIME
	Examin r	Art Unit	
	Kimberly D. Nguyen	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sh et with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>2</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 July 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 July 2003* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application)
since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.
37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific
reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *0703* .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim. Amdt/Amendment

1.   Acknowledgement is made of Preliminary Amendment filed 17 July 2003.

2.   This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Drawings

3.   Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that

which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected

drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The

objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4.   The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of its minor informality, that is, the

abstract is not in the range of 50 to 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5.   Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a
separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed
150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the
printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means"
and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist
readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the
title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns,"
"The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

6.   Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Re claim 1, line 3: Substitute "a matrix type two-dimensional code" with "a two-dimensional matrix code".

Re claim 1, lines 7, 10-12, 16, 17-18, 19, and 20-21: Substitute "a two-dimensional code" with "a two-dimensional matrix code".

The subsequent claims have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors (such as, "a two-dimensional code" should be substituted with "a two-dimensional matrix code", etc). Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the subsequent claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE **TWO MONTHS** FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER.

Allowable Subject Matter

7.   Claims 1-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection(s) set forth in this Office action.

8.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The record of prior art fails to teach a two-dimensional code reading method having processing steps of: acquiring an image of a two-dimensional matrix doe composed of a number of cells arranged in vertical and horizontal directions to form a matrix of the cells each representing binary coded data; deciding a two-dimensional code area in the image; and setting inspection lines identifying a center position of each of the cells, the inspection lines each joining

two paired opposites of four sides defining a boundary of the decided two-dimensional code area

and reproducing information of the two-dimensional code based on the inspection lines set by the

inspection line setting processing, wherein coefficients in image position calculating equations

for calculating coordinate positions of center positions of respective cells in the two-dimensional

matrix code compensated for image inclination by adding inclination information for the two-

dimensional matrix code are calculated for setting the inspection lines on the two-dimensional

matrix code image based on coordinate positions of four points within the two-dimensional

matrix code area decided by the two-dimensional matrix code area deciding step.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Conclusion

9.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. Ooyama et al. (US 4,820,928) teaches Lithography apparatus. Goodstal et al. (US

3,843,875) teaches numerical control checkering system. Widergren et al. (US 4,302,775)

teaches digital video compression system and methods utilizing scene adaptive coding with rate

buffer feedback.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-1798.

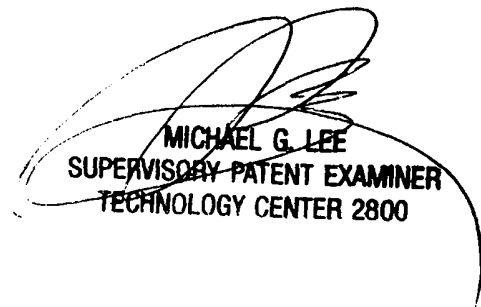The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-8792.

KDN
11 November 2003

MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800